

## NOT SO NEW THINGS

Ecc. 1:9-10

### Intro.

- A. Most everyone likes *new things*.
1. Smell of new car; feeling you get in a new outfit; the beauty of a new day dawning; purity of a new baby
  2. The Stoics & the Epicurians listened to Paul in the Areopagus fascinated by the new doctrine he taught.
- B. Text tells of Solomon's evaluation: there is no new thing under the sun.
1. Some have thought that the wise man = saying *life is monotonous*. (see **3:15**)
  2. It seems more likely that his statements reflects the stability of the world & the *sameness* of people.
  3. Shakespeare divided life into 7 stages – *All the world is a stage & men & women are merely actors*.
    - a. A humorist said, we go through ages in our eatings: *Beef broth, crisp bacon,.....*
    - b. There = other interesting divisions offered that describe the usual stages of life.
- C. Man still searches for new things --
1. In fashion, the *latest design* is often a recycling of an earlier style, but w/ slight modification.
  2. In a pr. Meeting, a "new idea" was shared that a congregation had just initiated:
    - a. elders shouldering the weight of spiritual responsibilities for members' souls &...
    - b. deacons concentrating on the physical needs of the people..
  3. Let's notice 4 areas of application of Solomon's statement.

### Discuss.

#### I. NO NEW THINGS $\rightleftarrows$ IN NATURE.

- A. News report last week (7/2/00) told of tremendous drop in water levels in the Gt. Lakes.
1. El Nenio & LaNenio are being blamed, along w/ global warming.
  2. Report added: historically, the water levels have 30-yr. ebb & flow cycle, & this is w/n usual pattern
- B. Truth is, in nature, our yesteryears are like our coming years.
1. Seasons will always continue w/ their snows, rains, winds & draught, etc. on schedule,
  2. **Gn. 8:22** *While the earth remains, seedtime & harvest, & cold & heat, & summer & winter, & day & night will not cease.*
- C. The main features of human life = constant & stable, regardless of where you live (or when).
1. Labor, success & failure, sorrow, cares & concerns,...& death. Remember Jesus' words, **Lk. 17:26-28**
  2. Life in U. S. is similar to life in Russia, India, S. Am., Europe --- diff. in income & conveniences, but same kinds of problems. – (*jealously, hatred, adultery, immaturity, worldliness.....*)

#### II. NO NEW $\rightleftarrows$ SIN UNDER THE SUN.

- A. Temptations of the past = same as today, & tomorrow will be no different
1. Basic sins have existed since Eden – **1 Jn. 2:16** *lust of flesh, lust of eye, pride of life*.
  2. There = NO moral evil today that wasn't addressed by Paul, (**Gal. 5:19-21; Rm. 1:29**), or Jn. **Re.21:8**
- B. Man still has same desires, passions, etc.
1. Homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality are not recent *discoveries* in ways to commit fornication **Lev. 20**
  2. Sinful pleasures = very temporary (**Heb. 11:25**)
  3. Sin still brings shame, contempt & misery, .& *sooner or later*, it will find us out, **Num. 32:23**

#### III. NO NEW $\rightleftarrows$ WAY TO REAR CHILDREN.

- A. Parents, Children still need *training* in God's right ways, along with *gentle rebukes*, (**Eph. 6:4**)
1. It has always been that way (c. **Deut. 6:3-9**)
  2. Wise man urged young people to listen to their parents, **Prov. 1:8**
- B. Children still need to know what an old-fashioned whipping is, early on.
1. **Pro. 13:24** – *spare rod = hate son...love son, discipline PROMPTLY;*
  2. **Pro. 29:15** *rod of reproof gives wisdom; but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother*
  3. *Chasten your son while there = hope*, **Pro. 19:18**; Also notice **Pro. 20:30** (needs to hurt = effective)

{ God's Way  
WORKS!

C. "Experts"(c. Dr. Spock) *Never correct nor spank & Build self-esteem, regardless = disaster*

IV. **NO NEW -- REMEDY FOR MAN'S MALADY.** (*No new Code of Ethics*)

- A. Christ & living according to His teachings is *still* the answer to man's sins.
  - 1. God's law of pardon has not changed.
  - 2. There is no substitute for repentance.
- B. The one & only hope of your lost friend, neighbor,...or **you** => is the gospel (c. **Rom. 1:16**)
  - 1. It is still God pleasure & choice to save lost souls through teaching & preaching, **1 Cor. 1:21**
  - 2. That is precisely why the Bible is so up-to-date. *It ALWAYS fits my life & your life.*

Concl.

- A. For a long time, Solomon saw life as monotonous.
- B. The person who is diligently serving God is NEVER bored.
  - 1. There are always corrections & adjustments to be made in our own lives.
  - 2. There is always another work in God's vineyard that needs your attention.
  - 3. There will always be souls to teach, others who need encouragement
  - 4. Some need our help --- physically
  - 5. Some need help --- spiritually --- **EVEN AT THIS VERY MOMENT!!!**
- C. If you need help to deal w/ prob. & burden of your sins, we want to help.
  - 1. That's the reason for this *invitation song*. (***plan of salvation***)
  - 2. Many have been praying for brothers & sisters whose lives have been relinquished to Satan again.
  - 3. We sing this song to encourage you to come back to the life Christians ought to live.
  - 4. We really do want to help you. Please come, as we sing.

*NS in Mayfield, KY  
7/16/00 AM*